

OPERA America presents
CONVERSATIONS

Sherrill Milnes@80

A special conversation with
OPERA America President/CEO
Marc A. Scorca

The National Opera Center
February 25, 2015
7:00 p.m.



SHERRILL MILNES

is universally acclaimed as the foremost operatic baritone of his generation. With his powerful voice, commanding stage

presence and rugged handsomeness, he received the kind of adulation that is usually reserved for tenors. He sang over 650 performances at the Metropolitan Opera, where he was honored with 16 new productions, seven opening nights and 10 national telecasts. As a leading artist in all of the world's great opera houses, Milnes performed and recorded with the likes of Domingo, Pavarotti, Sutherland, Sills, Horne, Price and Tebaldi. He is the winner of three Grammy Awards and the most recorded American singer of his time. In 2008, he received the Opera News Award for Distinguished Achievement.

Born on January 10, 1935, in Downers Grove, Illinois, Sherrill Milnes made his critically acclaimed debut at the Metropolitan Opera on December 22, 1965, as Valentin in *Faust*, an auspicious night that also featured the Met debut of Montserrat Caballé.

He was launched to stardom, however, in 1968, when his riveting performance as Miller in Verdi's *Luisa Miller* literally stopped the show at the Met and immediately made him the dominant baritone of his time. Throughout his remarkable career, Milnes showed an affinity for Verdi, whose works formed the cornerstone of a repertoire of some 70 roles. His autobiography, *American Aria: Encore*, is available from Amadeus Press.

Driven by his dedication to make the vocal arts vibrant, vital and entertaining in today's world, Milnes continues to give master classes, judge competitions and mentor new generations of singers. With his wife, Maria Zouves, he co-founded and runs the Sherrill Milnes VOICE Programs: VOICE Experience Foundation and the Savannah VOICE Festival provide training for aspiring young artists while fostering new audiences for the arts. For more information, visit VOICEExperience.org, sherrillmilnes.com and facebook.com/SherrillMilnes.



MARC A. SCORCA

joined OPERA America in 1990 as president/CEO. Under his leadership, OPERA America has administered landmark

funding initiatives in support of the development of North American operas and opera audiences, awarding more than \$11 million to opera companies and their partners from a permanent endowment, *The Opera Fund*. Numerous new programs have also been introduced to support the career development of singers, composers, librettists, stage directors and scenic designers.

OPERA America's relocation from Washington, D.C. to New York City in December 2005 — the first step in the construction of a National Opera Center that opened to great acclaim in September 2012 — has increased communication and collaboration with and among members, both locally and nationally. The Opera Center provides a number of unique facilities and related services for organizations and artists that have never before been available under one roof.

A strong advocate of collaboration, Scorca has led several cross-disciplinary projects, including the Performing Arts Research Coalition and the National Performing Arts Convention (2004 and 2008).

He has led strategic planning retreats for opera companies and other cultural institutions internationally and has participated on panels for federal, state and local funding agencies, as well as for numerous private organizations. He has been a member of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO and is currently an officer of the Performing Arts Alliance. He serves on the Curtis Institute of Music Board of Overseers, on the Music Advisory Board of Hunter College (CUNY), and on the boards of Opera.ca (Toronto) and Opera Europa (Brussels and London). Scorca also appears frequently in the media on a variety of cultural issues.

JOIN US FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER:

CREATORS IN CONCERT | David T. Little

Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Composer David T. Little often explores sociopolitical or existential subjects, engaging with today's culture and responding to issues faced by modern society. Little has earned acclaim for the imaginative way he draws on his varied musical interests — classical, punk/rock, musical theater — to produce arresting yet cohesive works.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL SERIES | Washington National Opera, Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

Saturday, April 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Founded in 2002 by Plácido Domingo, the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program is a leading resident-training program for artists on the verge of international careers. Hear the future of opera in recital when these emerging talents take the stage.

CONVERSATIONS | David Daniels

Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

David Daniels is known for his superlative artistry, magnetic stage presence and voice of singular warmth and beauty. The American countertenor has appeared with the world's major opera companies, and he has left a footprint in history as the first countertenor to give a solo recital in the main auditorium of Carnegie Hall.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL SERIES | 2014 Music Academy of the West Marilyn Horne Song Competition Winners: Michelle Bradley and Michael Gaertner

Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Fellows from the Music Academy's voice and vocal piano programs compete before a distinguished jury for prestigious awards given to those who excel in performing the song repertoire and display a unique gift for communicating with the audience.

Register for future events at operaamerica.org/Onstage.

Speak to an OPERA America staff member if you have questions about any of our events or if you are interested in becoming a member.